Return to Laboratory Evaluations

66-17 Emmevi Aqua Steam Cleaner (Project 01-76) (1/02)



The Agua Steam Cleaner is a compact, portable, tabletop steam-cleaning unit designed for dental laboratory use. Its three-liter internal boiler tank is constructed of stainless steel and has a refill capacity of 1½ liters with a reserve of 34 of liter. Steam is produced by heating the boiler tank with an internal 1500-watt heating element. Water is added through a filler neck located on top of the machine. The filler cap on the unit DIS evaluated had a safety relief valve built into it, which is designed to vent pressure in excess of 8½ bar (123 psi). The manufacturer has recently modified the steam cleaner's design by moving the safety relief valve. making it an internal feature attached to the unit's boiler. When pressure exceeds 8½ bar, excess steam is expelled inside the machine and out through side vents in the cabinet. Steam is dispensed during use by a steam pistol that is connected to the unit by a 4-foot-long hose. The steam pistol can be used either as a hand-held device or positioned in its holder on the unit and used in a hands-free mode. A foot-activated switch controls the flow of steam through the steam pistol. The front-located

control panel includes the following features: an analog pressure gauge to indicate current steam pressure, a regulator to adjust steam pressure from 4 bars (58 psi) to 6½ bars (94 psi), a red "element" warning light, an orange "water reserve" warning light, and an illuminated rocker power switch. External panels of the Aqua Steam Cleaner are made of stainless steel and also feature a top-located carrying handle for portability. The Aqua Steam Cleaner measures 11.8" H x 11.8" W x 15.7" D, is available in both 115- and 230-volt configurations, and weighs 19.8 lbs. The Aqua Steam Cleaner has a 12-month warranty from the date of purchase.

Distributor:

Harris Discount Supply 7506 West Melrose Lane Oklahoma City, OK 73127 (800) 227-8524 (405) 440-2299 FAX www.harrisdiscount.com

Suggested Retail Price:

\$669.00 Agua Steam Cleaner, includes:

- -Use and Maintenance Handbook
- -1 funnel
- -2 cap gaskets
- -1 nozzle tips assortment

Government Price: same as above

ADVANTAGES:

- + Built-in holder for steam pistol allows for hands-free operation.
- + Internal boiler and external case are constructed of stainless steel.
- + Well insulated; only slightly warm to the touch during operation.
- + Compact in size and easy to transport with its built-in carrying handle.
- + Steam regulator allows user to change steam pressure for different jobs.
- + Attractive price.

DISADVANTAGES:

- No water level gauge.
- Refill instructions must be followed closely.
- Needs to be refilled during the workday when used in a high-production laboratory.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

The Aqua Steam Cleaner is a portable, compact steam-cleaning unit that easily fits on a tabletop. The entire unit is well insulated with no bare pipes or fittings that could create a burn hazard. It has a handheld steam pistol that uses a unique holder that allows for hands-free steam-cleaning convenience. Evaluators found the steam cleaner's adjustable pressure regulator to be useful for cleaning various types of prostheses. Users noted that it is important to fill the unit only with the amount of distilled water recommended by the manufacturer. If overfilled, the steam cleaner expels excess water from the safety/fill cap. The manufacturer recently modified the steam cleaner's design by moving the safety relief valve from the fill cap to an internal component attached to the boiler tank. This change should eliminate water leaking from the fill cap. The Aqua had adequate steam capacity and worked especially well in smaller base dental laboratories. The Aqua Steam Cleaner is rated Recommended for use by the federal dental services in small- to medium-size (i.e., lower-volume) dental laboratories. The Aqua Steam Cleaner is rated Acceptable for use in large (i.e., higher-volume) dental laboratories.





